

Using the Web to Connect Schools to Pre-K

How Collaborative Internet Technologies
can strengthen Local Efforts to expand
Early Education

April 25, 2008

COEPACD

Sacramento County Office of Education

The State of ECE

- Diverse settings and providers
- Overlapping programs, funding streams, and requirements
- Many local innovations
- Confusing for outsiders *or* insiders to understand the “big picture”



ECE Web Presence



- Some ECE resources are well-established but not always connected
 - First 5 Association California
 - AIR
 - ERIC
- Local information may be available, but hard to find

Nonetheless, there is no obvious place to begin a search for ECE information

A Central Resource

The Plan4Preschool Web Portal, one of the largest online resources features:

- A broad array of child development research
- Sample curriculum models
- Policy information including community preschool and strategic plans
- Information and links from all 58 California counties
- A Google-powered custom Web Search specific to early education



Funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation

<http://www.plan4preschool.org>

Interactivity and collaboration enhance our collective knowledge



- Successful websites enhance their content offerings through user participation
 - Digg
 - YouTube
 - Wikipedia
- Plan4Preschool allows for user...
 - Ratings
 - Comments
 - And Content Uploads

Plan4Preschool's Development

- **Community Building and Testing**
- **Additional Local Information**
- **Curriculum Section**
- **Interactive Data on 4-year-old Children**



A Resource for ECE – and for County Offices

Plan4Preschool can serve as a:



- Starting point for ECE-related searches (like CDE for K-12)
- Forum to share your latest work and local innovations
- Resource for workforce development
- Place to publicize and host information for public meetings

Linking Schools and ECE

Counties could be more even effective if they leverage this emerging technology to:



- **Avoid unnecessarily duplicating efforts**
- **Contribute to the collective ECE knowledge base, esp. through the County Showcase pages**
- **Look to other successful programs to find innovative ideas**
- **Network within the field for increased content collaboration**

The End – Demonstration

Plan4Preschool Web Portal

<http://www.plan4preschool.org>

John Harris

Karen Hill Scott & Company

<http://www.karenhillscott.com>

jharris@karenhillscott.com